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SPOKE

Vol 26, No. 23

Conestoga College, Kitchener, Ontario

June 27, 1994

Sports bar
officially open

By Sean McMinn

Doon campus's recreation sports lounge opened officially June 16, though it didn't serve any alcohol until June 17 because it did not have a liquor licence.

The bar, named the Condor Roost, is located on the second floor of the Kenneth E. Hunter recreation centre.

Inside the air-conditioned sports lounge, the bar has a typical sports atmosphere, with four televisions sets hooked to a satellite dish, which constantly show sports.

The room, which can sit 90 people, has tables for four and tables for two which run along the window section of the bar.

Tables and seats are red and blue, the school's colors.

"It's great. Once September comes, there will be a lot of students here," said Ken Winterstein, a third-year ro-

See Conestoga bar, page 4



Seeing double

Frank Ribic, a window washer with Aluma Brass of Minden, Ont., gets Doon campus windows so clean he can see himself in them.

(Photo by Wladimir Schweigert)

Faculty upset

Extra work may pass 44 hours

By Colleen Connachan

Recent provincial initiatives to be implemented in colleges have sparked controversy between members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU) and representatives from Conestoga College.

The issue centres around allocation of time using the Standards Workload Formula (SWF), which establishes how faculty and counsellor hours should be scheduled for such things as teaching, preparation and evaluation.

The SWF for 1993/94 academic year required faculty to work a maximum of 44 hours per week.

However, in light of new college initiatives, such as prior learning assessment program (PLA) and generic skills electives, work which goes above and beyond required hours requires special recognition, according to local 238 OPSEU president John Berry.

For the prior learning assessment initiative, the college has planned to administer training sessions in order for faculty to prepare test evaluations, portfolio assessments and deadline requirements. As for the generic skills elective, faculty will be asked to look at new learning outcomes that will be incorporated into course curricula.

OPSEU is asking the college and education ministry to recognize that provisions need to be made in order for successful implementation of the initiatives.

"If we're assigned the 44 hours and all this work has to be done, where does it get done, where does it fit?" said Berry. "We are already doing things above and beyond our workload formula."

Berry said OPSEU members recognize that the initiatives will have a positive effect on the college system. However, he said, there needs to be some relief within the workload formula if the college wants the initiatives to come into place.

"We have taken the position that any work to be done on these initiatives have got to be part of our workload."

See OPSEU members, page 4

Student named top graduate

By Sean McMinn

Conestoga College graduate and award winner Lele Truong said it was the thrill of her lifetime to win the Governor General's Academic Medal.

The honor was one of the four major awards handed to students and faculty at the 26th Convocation of Conestoga College, June

17-18. The other awards included the Conestoga College Mastercraft Award, the Aubrey Hagar Distinguished Teaching Award and the James W. Church Achievement Award.

"I'm overwhelmed with this award and I'm very grateful to everyone that has helped me," said Truong.

See Accounting, page 4



Lele Truong, left, receives the Governor General's Academic Medal from Conestoga president John Tibbits.

(Photo by Sean McMinn)

Convocation speaker gives advice

By Michelle Voll

A reflective look on life and careers was given to Conestoga graduates at the June 17 convocation ceremony by the executive director of Waterloo Region's health council.

Louise Demers spoke to health sciences and trades and apprenticeship graduates at the June 17 ceremony. Demers has been involved in various aspects of planning for health and related services in Waterloo Region and serves on a joint task force to strengthen health planning in Ontario.

Demers stressed to the graduates that careers don't always follow paths as planned, but unexpected changes can provide more learning opportunities and personal growth.

"The most striking success pattern among our colleagues is one of multi-threaded careers, associated in almost every instance with the lifelong learning and varied and diversified career choices."

Although job prospects may not be abundant, said Demers, graduates shouldn't despair, as other opportunities will surface.

See Students, page 4

Related stories, page 6 and 7



Louise Demers, guest speaker at the June 17 convocation ceremony, displays the plaque given to her by Conestoga College.

(Photo by William Kennedy)

SPOKE

Editor: William Kennedy
 Associate Editor: Wladimir Schweigert
 Copy Editor: Mike Beitz
 Production Manager: Sean McMinn
 Advertising Manager: Colleen Connachan
 Circulation Manager: Sheilagh McDonald
 Faculty Supervisor: Jerry Frank

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Spoke, Conestoga College,
 299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 4B15,
 Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4
 Telephone: 748-5366

Sample life's offerings and savor their taste

I consider myself fortunate to travel on spaceship Earth and participate in life. Born into a family of hard-working farmers in a nameless, insignificant spot of South America, I learned to marvel at life early in my childhood.

I marvelled not only at birds, fish and the star-filled sky, but also at the world of ideas and mankind's expressions of it.

I don't know if it really was by chance or by some fortuitous design that I learned to delight in Tchaikovsky's violin concerto and in Segovia's exquisite guitar interpretations of Ferdinand Sor.

As a young man, I heard of Pliny, St. Augustine, Pascal, Montaigne, Lord Byron and others by way of the epigram — a literary genre I came to love for its brevity and capacity to stimulate thought.

And I came to admire everybody who painted or sketched, who played with light and shadows and suggested something transcending mere representation.

I developed an eclectic's way of sampling the wealth of creations. Unknowingly, I became a dilettante. Sampling suits me fine because I could not possibly encompass all there is to savor.

I stumbled across the assertion, recently, that one has to have the courage not to have read the classics. And though I admire Tolstoy, War and Peace is still on the shelf unread.

Some of my favorite authors are little known, like Amado Nervo, a Mexican who crafted a few memorable Spanish lines, or the Polish priest Mieczyslaw Malinski, whose 10-line essays are so profound I wish they would be read by all Canadians.

And how could I not reserve a niche for the sheer magic of photography? I am enthralled by the mystery of Minor White's abstractions and by Paul Caponigro's evocative landscapes. And what to say of the poetic images of Joseph Koudelka or Andre Kertetz?

Yet this chance to marvel and enjoy not only makes me feel fortunate, it also makes me feel indebted and grateful. Thankful to creators and indebted to, perhaps, a relative or a friend for the casual remark which sparked an interest in the realm of the mind.

But this musing about my good fortune makes me feel indebted particularly now that I have to leave the college. After having spent over a year learning the rudiments of reporting, I am supposed to go out and give something back to the society that sustained the system.

Yet, I would not want to step out the door without first expressing my thanks to the marvellous people I encountered here. My appreciation goes to those people who hold high positions and were willing partners in my training, as well as to all those who might think they do not carry much weight. I value them all.

I am indebted especially to the instructors who in their despairing ways challenged me at every turn. I hope I can honor their efforts with a good performance out in the real world.

These are difficult times for our tumbling planet, but who can go wrong in the company of those who give for the growth of others?



By Wladimir Schweigert



A unity fable: Three Little Pigs revisited

Once upon a time, the three little pigs decided to get into Canadian politics.

After their fiasco with the wolf, they decided it was time to try their hand at nation-building.

The first little pig had a vision for a new country. His vision involved a radical restructuring that included a new sovereign country within the framework of the provinces.

This new country, according to his vision, would declare itself independent and distinct from the one it left. However, it would remain a friendly trading partner with Canada and retain its currency, but absolve itself from its share of the national debt.

The idea was a weak one, though. Under the leadership of the first pig, both Canada and the sovereign country eventually became fragmented.

Factions within each one worked to undermine the already strained relationship they enjoyed since 1867. In the end, both countries collapsed like a pile of straw.

The second pig fared no better. His plan allowed for the formation of the new country within Canada, but only under strict and unforgiving conditions.

Furthermore, he encouraged infighting in what remained of Canada by denying government assistance to cultural groups and by discouraging immigration.

He was viewed by many as a racist despot, and the country went up in flames like a bundle of dried twigs.

The third pig was much smarter than the other two. Utmost in his mind was the idea that for Canada to

survive, it must remain united from sea to sea.

By focusing on issues of concern to all Canadians, such as unemployment and deficit reduction, the third pig forced the two feuding sides to ignore their differences.

It would be far better, he said, to concentrate on the country's common interests and common goals.

And most Canadians agreed.

When the smoke of intolerance cleared, people were able to see the country for what it was — a nation with great economic potential, significant cultural diversity, an abundance of natural resources and an effective apparatus for the education of its citizens.

It soon became obvious why, in 1992 and 1993, the United Nations ranked Canada the best place to live.

Needless to say, the third pig became a popular leader.

By holding a mirror up to Canada, and forcing the country to see its beauty marks instead of its warts for the first time, he began to foster in Canadians something they had lacked since Confederation: a sense of identity.

Unlike those of the other pigs, the vision of the third pig was a solid one. The foundations he laid for the country were firm and unshakeable, and no amount of huffing and puffing by dissenters could bring down the walls of what became the greatest country in the world.

The End.



By Mike Beitz

Rock will witness the Canadian invasion

Twenty-five years ago, a vast group of men, women and children ventured across North America to a patch of farmland in New York state. At that muddy field, about half a million people celebrated a weekend of peace. The event was Woodstock.

This summer, people will make the same journey to celebrate Woodstock's 25th anniversary, hoping the weekend concert will be the same as the one in 1969.

But will it?

At a May 3 news conference in New York city, the Rolling Stones announced that they will be going on tour. Once again, the giants of the British invasion will rock and roll fans as they did before.

Or will they?

Other bands from the '60s and '70s are making a reappearance. Pink Floyd, the Eagles, the Beach Boys and Roger Daltry are all touring this summer.

Could it be that both the British and the Americans are having trouble with originality?

Over half a century of rule over pop music by both nations seems to



By Sean McMinn

be caught in a time loop. Even that pathetic dance music that hogs most night clubs is a reincarnation of disco music.

Although a large number of people (including teenagers) still listen to classic rock, as they should, the British and American invasions are over.

It is now time for Canada to take control of the airwaves and become the reigning musical empire. Yes, that is right, Canada.

In the past couple of years (mainly due to government regulations) Canadian radio stations have been playing more music by Canadian artists.

And to the astonishment of many listeners, a number of Canadians can actually play instruments.

And the artists that are now evolving in Canada are growing. Bands

like the Tragically Hip, Junkhouse, the Dough Boys, the Rhinos and Tea Party all have potential to be the start of a Canadian invasion.

Canadians should stop looking to other countries for music while an incredible musical culture lies right in front of our noses. At night clubs across Southern Ontario, young bands struggle to survive. Until only recently, they were ignored.

Now these bands are slowly being noticed.

It has always been teenagers who notice changes in pop music, and they have noticed the revolution in Canadian music.

People will be amazed at the new talent that is developing in Canada. One only needs to visit a local bar to realize how good Canadian bands really are.

It is important that we support our nation's musical culture. Canadians must realize that there is a spark in our music.

A spark that could most definitely kindle into a flame that will engulf the world.

The possibility of a Canadian invasion is not unrealistic.

Letters to the editor

Spoke welcomes all letters to the editor. If you have a beef, or an opinion, please send it in. Spoke reserves the right to edit letters to fit space, and to remove any libellous statements. Your letter must be signed, and include your program and year for verification. Send letters to the Spoke office, Room 4B15, Doon campus.

Spoke, Conestoga College,
 299 Doon Valley Dr., Room 4B15
 Kitchener, Ontario, N2G 4M4
 Telephone: 748-5366

College robotics students construct assembly line

By John Cinezan

If all goes well, 18 third-year robotics and automation students at Doon Campus will have a fully operational robotic assembly line completed by Aug. 22.

The class, which is part of the mechanical engineering program, has been working on the line since last semester, said instructor Mick Andick.

"Final designs were completed June 14 and construction of the work cell has begun," said Andick.

The automated assembly line will construct red marker lights usually found on the sides of transport trucks. About a dozen separate pieces will automatically be put together on the assembly line by robots.

"It is a major manufacturing and automation project simulating the integrating of advanced technology as near as possible. The main thrust is to develop the ability to plan, schedule, self-direct and evaluate their communication and team-building skills," said Andick.

The 18 students were divided into groups of three and each group was responsible for designing a component of the assembly line.

The actual line consists of two rotating index tables that will move the marker light to various stations where a small robot will perform a task on it.

The process starts with the base of the light being manually loaded onto the first index table. The table then spins around and stops at the

different work stations which are located on the perimeter of the table. At each station a task is performed on the light, such as the light bulb being inserted.

Halfway through the assembly process, a larger robot which sits between the two index tables will pick up the half-completed unit and place it on the second table where it will be finished.

The last station on the second index table is a test centre where voltage is passed through the light to see if it works. If it does not, a robot will place it into a reject box.

Over 75 per cent of the parts that will be used to construct the line are already at the college, said Andick.

"The remaining odds and ends will have to be purchased or the students will have to procure them from their old employers," said Andick.

The third-year robotic students have been on two work terms already.

Andick estimates the whole line, when completed, will be worth between \$30,000 and \$40,000.

"It will be totally designed by the students with very little help from us (the faculty)," said Andick.

Andick said the project is a good one because the students are about to graduate and they will be able to show prospective employers what they have done, as well as from what they have learned.

Each of the students will work on the line for 15 to 20 hours per week, said Andick.



All in a day's work . . .

Chris Thompson plays doctor as he applies some bandages to the knee of an injured Stella Pauser. The two high school students were playing tennis during a visit to Conestoga College when Pauser fell.

(Photo by John Cinezan)

Summer children's camps start at Doon

By Sean McMinn

The recreation centre will be full of children starting July 1, when a number of camps will start for children from ages four to 14.

Fun camp is one of the camps that will begin July 1. The camp, for five-year-old to nine-year-old children, includes games, crafts and sports, said sports camp director Jen VanDerZwaag.

Another camp is the adventure camp for ages 10-14. VanDerZwaag said the adventure

camp is closely related to the fun camp but children will also do some orienteering.

"Orienteering is outdoor activity," said VanDerZwaag. "We'll do things like teach the children how to use compasses."

VanDerZwaag said other activities include things like survival games.

A sports camp for 10- to 14-year-old children involves teaching children the strategies of playing sports like tennis, volleyball and basketball.

"This year our staff is qualified in each of those, because we want it to be more of a sports camp than it has been in the past," she said.

The children in the sports camp will go swimming, possibly horseback riding and go on a special trip to Pioneer Sportsworld, she said.

There also will be a soccer camp and a hockey camp, said VanDerZwaag. She said in the two camps, the children will learn how to play the sports for half the day, and the other half they will be taught some basics in computers.

College employee of seven years dies

By Frank Knobloch

Jane Skipp, a faculty member at Conestoga College since 1987, died June 11 in Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital of cancer. She was 37.

Skipp was program manager for the schools of business and applied arts at the college.

"Jane was a major bulwark for this campus," said Grant McGregor, principal at Doon campus. McGregor said her help was instrumental in his success in deal-

ing with many trying situations over the years.

"She will be sadly missed as a colleague and a friend, said McGregor. "Jane probably knew everything that went on, in terms of programming, at this campus."

Marie Fundak, administrative assistant to McGregor, said Skipp brightened faces with her good humor. "She could always make staff smile with a joke. There will be a big gap left around here without her."

The Ratz-Bechtel Chapel, 621 King St. W., Kitchener, held a private memorial service for the family, and a group of close friends, and colleagues gathered at her home June 15, at the request of husband Peter.

Also surviving is son Adam and step-children Paul, Stephen and Tracey. She was predeceased by parents Charles and Audrey Fraser and mother-in-law Emily Skipp.

Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society can be made as expressions of sympathy.

Corrections

In the story, Dirty hands a personal issue, on page six of the June 20 issue of Spoke, Kim Radigan, health and safety co-ordinator, said the health and safety committee decided not to pursue the issue because it is not a safety concern for the committee.

It should have been reported that Radigan also said the committee decided that failing to wash hands is a personal hygiene issue.

On page five of the same issue, Duane Shadd's name was misspelled, as was Kastil and Zuch plumbing on page six and Mike Rau on page seven. Spoke regrets the omission and the errors.

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OPSEU members request relief for extra workload

From page 1

At the moment, OPSEU's request to recognize extra work hours has delayed progress in implementing the new initiatives. Prior learning assessment facilitator Eleanor Conlin said the ministry has assigned an employees relation committee to resolve such issues, which are also occurring at various colleges across the province. The committee, she said, has been given until June 1995 to come up with a solution.

Berry said the ministry tends to sit on proposed initiatives until suddenly deciding it is time to implement all of them at once. "They have no concept of the logistics involved in putting this in place and then they set unreasonable time lines." He added, "This kind of thing just underlines the fact that they do not comprehend the work that has to be done." Time has to be assigned with the workload formula each semester for faculty to make the initiatives work, said Berry, or the focus will

be taken away from regular course structures. "We are willing to do the work, we support the initiatives, but there has to be time release on our SWFs." Included in the maximum 44 hours required of faculty under the formula is a section called complementary time, which can be spent on committee work or extra projects. Berry said faculty may use that time to prepare for initiatives, but if more time than is allotted under that section is required, there needs to be some relief.

Berry said he recognizes the college does not have money to hire extra people. "We're just trying to hold our nose above the water." He said the issue is not a dispute directly with the college, but the province. "At a provincial level, they are going to have to come up with some type of arrangement. Meanwhile, the initiatives are getting slowed down a little." "The faculty has no reluctance in doing the work, but if we're going to do the work how is it going to be reflected?"

Students should grab opportunities

From page 1

"It is easy to fall prey to the notion that not finding work in our chosen fields is a mark that is unfavorable to us as individuals. "These are difficult notions to dispel, yet dispel them we must. Otherwise, we diminish ourselves and our nation." Demers described her own career path, which was far different from what she had anticipated, and said

that in retrospect she is happy with how it turned out. "I would have forfeited many opportunities for learning, for career depth and for personal growth, for which I have gratitude." The career preparation that graduates at the June 17 ceremony have received at Conestoga will provide them with opportunities in health care, technology and mechanical trades, she said. "As well, your skills have been

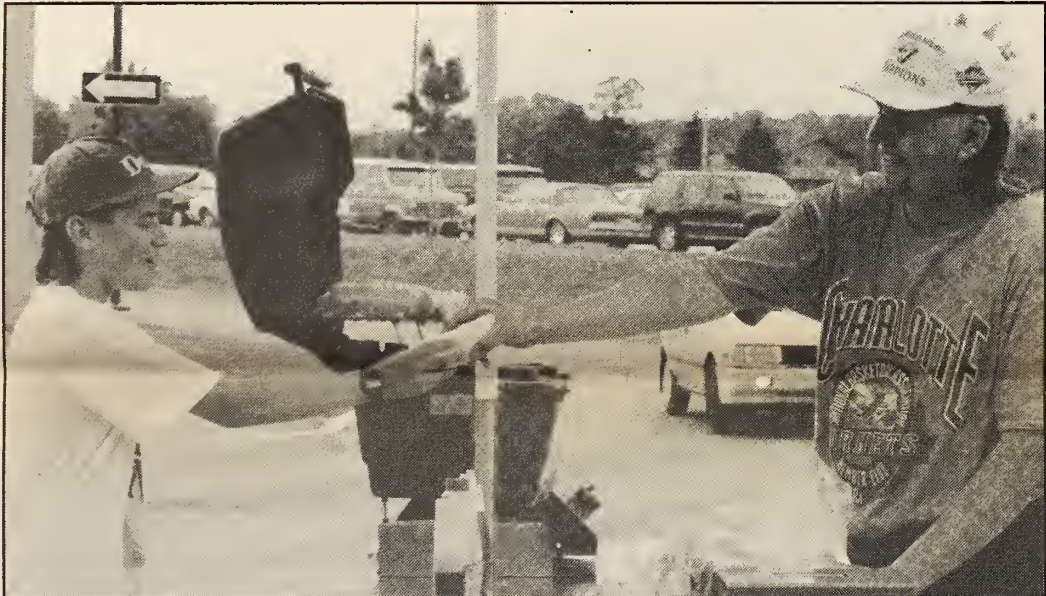
honed to prepare you to build bridges among a variety of career and life choices." She encouraged the graduates to go out into the world fighting. Demers added students should be prepared to continually learn and grow as they move through their careers. "Make your mark . . . better our human landscape, expand your horizons and the opportunities before you."

Accounting graduate receives academic medal

From page 1

Truong, a graduating student in the business administration accounting program, received the Governor General's Academic Medal at the June 18 Saturday morning convocation. "When I came here three years ago, I had no idea I'd win this award," she said. The medal is awarded to the graduating student who has achieved the highest overall standing in a diploma-level program. Truong is a native of Vietnam and immigrated to Canada with her family in 1979. In 1984, Truong studied at a private vocational school to learn hairdressing skills, and in 1986 she earned her licence. In 1990, she attended the Waterloo County board of education's Open Door program at the Alexandra campus in Waterloo and earned her secondary school credits. Truong enrolled at Conestoga in

the fall of 1991. Since she has been enrolled at Conestoga, she has received two other awards. She received the Bob Gilbert Award for combining academic achievement in business studies with a strong contribution to college life through her ability to work with and assist other students. Her other award was sponsored by the Certified General Accountants of Ontario, and consisted of a \$150 prize and \$1,800 to apply towards tuition. She received that award for attaining the highest standing in second-year accounting courses. After Truong received her medal June 18, she made a speech thanking Canada for letting her in, and thanking Canadians for helping her achieve everything. Now that she has graduated, she said, she will be looking for a full-time job. She also would like to take part-time courses with the Certified Accountant Association.



Dog gone good

Jeff Taves (right), second-year business-administrative accounting student, sells a hot dog to his cousin Chris Taves (left), outside the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre at Doon campus, Friday June 17.

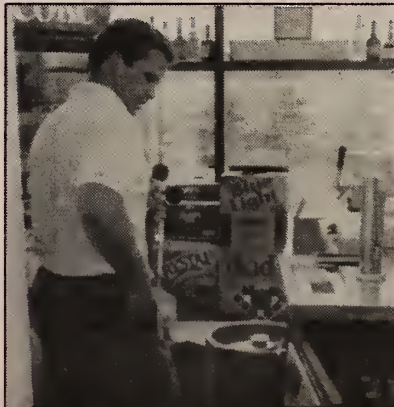
(Photo by William Kennedy)

Conestoga bar now serving

From page 1

botics and automation student. "It's a stress relief." "It's convenient. This is a definite asset," said Roger Ashfield, another third-year robotics and automation student. Students, faculty, employees of the college and spectators of a game can enjoy the bar. Sandwiches, pizza, snacks, soups, salads and finger foods are available, and the bar serves draft beer, as well as bottled

beer, wine and liquor. The hours of business are daily from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. "I like it," said Paula Feddema, administrative co-ordinator of the recreation centre. "It's bright, clean, fresh and the food is excellent." At present, there is a banner hanging at the top of the entrance to the bar, the only sign that indicates there is a bar. But Dan Young, director of athletics and recreation, said there will be neon lights put up soon to indicate where the bar is.



(left) Matt Hobson, from Brick Brewing Company, fills the taps at the bar. (below) Second-year graphic and arts design student and waiter Ron Smrczek gives a sample of hot wings to Paula Feddema and Lynda Carmichael. (Photos by Sean McMinn)



THANK-YOU

Thanks to all who donated to the Student Food Bank. Your donations are greatly appreciated. We are still accepting donations of canned goods. Please drop off at the DSA Activities Office or Student Services. If you are in need of the Food Bank Service, please contact Student Services.

Perspective

Student Drug Plan

Conestoga's mandatory drug plan a concern for students

By Colleen Connachan

A good place to start was in the middle when it came to choosing the cost and quality of Conestoga College's new drug plan, said Jennifer Kurt, former member of the Doon Student Association.

Kurt said shopping around for a drug plan for Conestoga was not an easy process.

Kurt, who headed the drug plan project for the 1993/94 academic year, said, "We looked at plans that covered everything and anything, but the cost was really expensive."

The DSA also looked into plans that cost next to nothing, but found they also covered next to nothing.

So, Kurt said, the best plan to pick was in the middle price range.

Picking a plan to accommodate

the types of students who attend Conestoga was the first step, said Kurt. After that was decided, it was a matter of convincing other college officials that a drug plan was beneficial to students.

Kurt said the question that frequently came up focused on the mandatory feature of the drug plan, which prompted a mainly negative response.

The mandatory requirement was one of the main concerns that members of the board of governors brought up when the plan was formally presented, said Kurt.

But once it was clarified that students could opt out if they had equal or better insurance coverage, the board gave its approval, she added.

Members also questioned if it was

a good time to introduce another fee for students. Kurt said the upcoming year was probably the best time to implement such a fee, since the province has put a freeze on

"We seemed to be the only college that did not have a drug plan."

—Jennifer Kurt

other additional fees.

The freeze means student activity fees and ancillary fees, including the athletic fee, will not increase.

Also, she said, Conestoga accommodates many mature students who have less chance of having other insurance coverage.

Kurt said another main concern of the board of governors was whether or not a student survey by the DSA was thorough enough.

She acknowledged it could have been conducted on a bigger scale. "It was a fair survey, because it covered a broad section of programs."

Kurt said the survey covered approximately 100 students, with a majority responding positively to the plan.

The fact that Conestoga was one of the few colleges that did not offer an insurance plan was also a main consideration.

"We seemed to be the only college that did not have a drug plan. And I'm sure that could have discouraged people from attending our school."

Students generated comments to both the health office and DSA office about a drug plan, she said. "The students were the ones who brought it to our attention."

Kurt said students may not take to the mandatory plan right away, but it is a matter of "throwing it out there to see if it works."

"It doesn't have to be a permanent plan. They will quickly learn from their mistakes," said Kurt. "The service can always be cut next year if it doesn't work."

She added that it's human nature for people to become ill, and wondered how the drug plan could be wrong for students.

"I think it's a really good place to start," she said. "I don't understand why the DSA never looked at this option before."

DSA shopped around for drug plan

By Mike Beitz

According to the Doon Student Association (DSA) vice-president of student affairs, price was the most important criterion in selecting an insurance company through which to offer a student drug plan.

Jacki Allin said Seaboard Life Insurance Company was just one of three companies that last year's DSA considered after deciding to implement a drug plan covering prescription drugs.

The other two insurance companies were RWAM Insurance Administrators and Green Shield Canada.

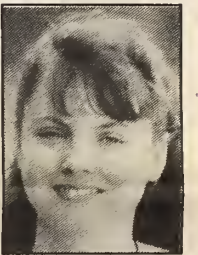
"After doing a benefit comparison between the three, the DSA decided that Seaboard Life offered the best coverage for the cheapest price," said Allin.

Seaboard Life also has the most experience in providing health insurance to colleges, said Allin, and that was also a factor in making the decision to go with them.

Allin said originally the DSA was considering offering a more comprehensive health plan, but it decided the students could not afford it.

"Once students realize the benefits of having a drug plan, I think they'll support it."

—Jacki Allin



"We felt the most important type of coverage was for prescription drugs," said Allin, "so we had to have that at the very least."

She said that, based on the response to the plan by students, the DSA will judge whether or not to add more coverage the following year or scrap the drug plan altogether depending on student response.

"I'm sure we'll get a lot of complaints at first because it's a new thing," said Allin. "Once students realize the benefits of having a drug plan, I think they'll support it."

Conestoga's new drug plan comparable to those offered at other Ontario colleges

By Colleen Connachan

The new student drug plan which goes into effect this fall at Conestoga College is with an insurance company that is already servicing other Ontario colleges.

Seaboard Life Insurance Company senior accountant executive Thomas McGuire said it may take a year to see the positive and negative aspects of the plan.

McGuire said most of the colleges his company serves have benefited greatly from the plan.

"What we try to do is provide an essential benefit for the majority of the population."

A majority of Ontario college plans make contributions to a drug plan mandatory, as does Conestoga's. Students can opt out if they already have equal or better insurance coverage.

At Hamilton's Mohawk College, which also deals with Seaboard, Marsha Appleman, administrative assistant to the Student Union Corporation, said regardless of what

plan is in place there is always a small percentage of students objecting to such mandatory fees.

"Some people will say they don't get sick at all so they don't have to pay," said Appleman.

At the moment, Mohawk is negotiating a \$1.40 per student per month fee for insurance.

However, Mohawk's plan includes accident medical reimbursement, dental accident expense reimbursement and prescription drugs reimbursement, compared to Conestoga's plan which only covers prescription drugs.

Conestoga's drug plan is set so students will receive 80 per cent reimbursement on all prescription drugs authorized by a physician.

The plan also includes coverage of oral contraceptives, which plans at colleges like George Brown, Mohawk and Humber do not.

St. Clair College in Windsor is one college that has chosen not to implement an insurance plan because of cost.

"We did not think it was feasible

to go through an insurance company," said Cathy Bishop, a member of the Student Representative Council.

Nevertheless, St. Clair still offers a drug plan coverage which is generated from student activities fees.

This year a total of \$2,500 was allotted for prescription drug coverage.

She said St. Clair's drug plan is already widely used. However, she said, the college plans to advertise the drug plan so the whole student population has a chance to benefit. "Some people don't even know the college has this coverage."

Seaboard representative McGuire said colleges implement such plans in the best interest of the students.

He said he recognizes some people will resent the mandatory requirement. McGuire added that in certain cases, an insurance plan can determine if a student is successful academically.

"It can make a big difference to some students who really need it," he said.

Insurance reps meet with DSA

By Mike Beitz

Members of the Doon Student Association (DSA) met June 15 with representatives of the insurance company through which Conestoga's student drug plan will be offered to discuss details of its implementation.

Jeffrey Ische, an employee benefits consultant with Campbell & Company Insurance Brokers, and Thomas McGuire, a senior accounts executive with Seaboard Life Insurance Company, were on hand at a DSA meeting to field last-minute questions about the plan, which will take effect in September 1994.

Several of the questions dealt with the circumstances under which students may opt in or out of the plan.

All full-time students at the Doon campus are required to pay the mandatory \$50.54 for the plan, which covers prescription drugs to a maximum of \$2,000 per year.

Students at the Cambridge, Guelph, Stratford and Waterloo campuses are not automatically charged the mandatory fee, but have the option of purchasing the coverage in September.

Similarly, students entering in the winter or spring semesters are not subject to the mandatory fee, but may purchase the drug plan if they choose to do so.

Students entering in January, for example, can opt into the plan for the \$50.54 fee, but coverage will last only until the end of August.

Although the coverage lasts only half as long as that for someone entering in September, said McGuire, the maximum total claim amount allowable is still \$2,000.

Students at Doon campus may opt out of the plan if they have similar coverage and can show proof of that coverage, such as a certificate of insurance.

The deadline for student wishing to opt out of the plan is Friday, Sept. 30.



Convocation 1994

Students proud winners at awards

By Sean McMinn

A graduate student in the construction engineering technology program was chosen winner of the Conestoga College's Mastercraft Award, presented June 18 at convocation ceremonies.

James Gerrard received the award at a morning ceremony of the 26th convocation of Conestoga.

The award consists of an inscribed and framed college coat of arms and a cheque for \$500.

"I feel proud of myself," said Gerrard. "It's not every day you get to take home a poster-sized award and hang it on your wall."

The Mastercraft Award recognizes student achievement in program-related technical skills.

Students first enter a program-level skills competition.

The winning entries then proceed to the college-wide competition.

Gerrard won on the merit of his project, design and preparation of working drawings for a new clubhouse at a local golf course.

In 1992, Gerrard won a gold medal at the Skills Canada national event for his work in the computer-aided design (architectural) category.

He has also won a gold medal at the United States Skills Olympics in Louisville, Ky.

Gerrard said he enjoyed school and is happy to graduate. "I had a great three years at the college," he said. "I walked out of college and right into a job," he added.

During the afternoon ceremony at the June 18 convocation, Lynda Decaire received the James W. Church Achievement Award.

The award is named in honor of the founding president of Conestoga College.

It recognizes an exemplary stu-

dent who combines high academic achievement with outstanding public service.

The award consists of an inscribed and framed college coat of arms and a cheque for \$1,000.

DeCaire is a graduate in the early childhood education resource teacher program.

She maintained a straight-A average and has been active in the education field for many years. She first began as a kindergarten teacher's aide in the 1970s, then was a special education aide.

From 1988 to the present she has been a resource teacher with the Dufferin Association for Community Living.

DeCaire has participated in more than 70 courses and workshops since 1982.

In 1989-90, she served as regional vice-president for Scouts Canada of the Orangeville district.



College president John Tibbits presents James Gerrard with the Mastercraft award for excellence in technical skills.

(Photo by Sean McMinn)

Also, DeCaire organized a garage sale to raise \$800, which was used to purchase Christmas food and gifts for anonymous delivery to needy families.

DeCaire has formed scouting pro-

grams to give children of needy families participation opportunities, and programs to encourage participation by children from various cultural and religious backgrounds.

Computer professor captures teaching award

By Sean McMinn

John Scott, a teacher in the computer programmer-analyst program at Conestoga College, received the Aubrey Hagar Distinguished Teaching Award at the 26th Convocation of Conestoga College on June 18.

The award is given to the faculty member who has made an outstanding contribution and shown leadership in the teaching-learning process.

The award, named in honor of Aubrey Hagar, a founding member of the board of governors, consists of a framed college coat of arms, a specially designed ceremonial lirpipe and \$800 to be used by the winner for professional development activities.

Scott, who has a PhD in physical chemistry from the University of Waterloo, began teaching mathematics and quantitative methods courses in the

technology division at Conestoga in the early 1970s.

He started teaching at Conestoga's school of business in the computer programmer-analyst program in the early 1980s.

One of Scott's major accomplishments is his management of the systems project, in which he helps student teams to produce working computer systems.

Conestoga college president John Tibbits, who presented the award, said those final-year projects have high visibility in the business community and often result in students gaining employment immediately after graduation.

Along with Kristin Higgins, another computer programmer-analyst instructor, Scott developed a text entitled Programming Logic with QBASIC. The text was published in 1993 by Prentice-Hall.

Scott owns and operates a computer

consulting business.

He also has been on the Rogers Cablesystems' television program, The Computer Show, a number of times.

Scott often speaks at area high schools to interest young students in the computer career and encourage them to enrol in the computer programmer-analyst program.

He has served as a faculty representative to the college's board of governors. Scott also serves on the computer standards committee.

Scott is the seventh winner of the Aubrey Hagar Award.

Previous winners are: Bruce Bjorkquist, school of health sciences; Donal Cavanaugh, school of business; Susan Johnstone, school of health sciences; Patricia Strachan, school of health sciences; Raja Vaidyanathan, school of business; and H. Norman Socha, school of trades and apprenticeships.



Ride 'em cowboy

Jeff MackIntosh, 9, rides the cafeteria turnstiles during the reception after Friday's convocation ceremonies.

(Photo by William Kennedy)

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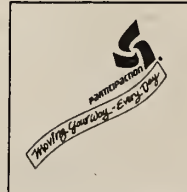
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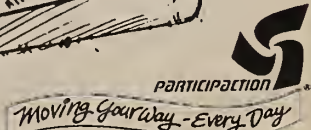
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Convocation 1994

Job market worries grads

By Sean McMinn and Rob Heinbecker

Graduates attending Conestoga College's 26th annual convocation agreed that finishing school is great, but added that finding a job is a greater task.

"I am glad to be done; it's great," said Sheri McGregor, an accounting graduate.

The only response early childhood education graduate Rosalea Klooster had after being asked how she felt about graduating was "wonderful".

But Klooster had an extra reason to be elated: she has a job. Klooster is a nanny at Wildwood Inn in St. Marys. She said she feels lucky to have a position so soon after graduating because "a lot of my friends do not have jobs." Klooster said she considers the job market "pretty grim."

Other graduates, however, did not share Klooster's dim view of the job market, though they were cautious with their optimism.

Steve Fitzsimmons, from broadcasting — radio and television, said he has sent out many applications

and received no response, but is optimistic. "I may have to settle for something I do not want."

He explained that graduates must be willing to make a sacrifice about the kind of a job they can get right away or they will not find a job at all.

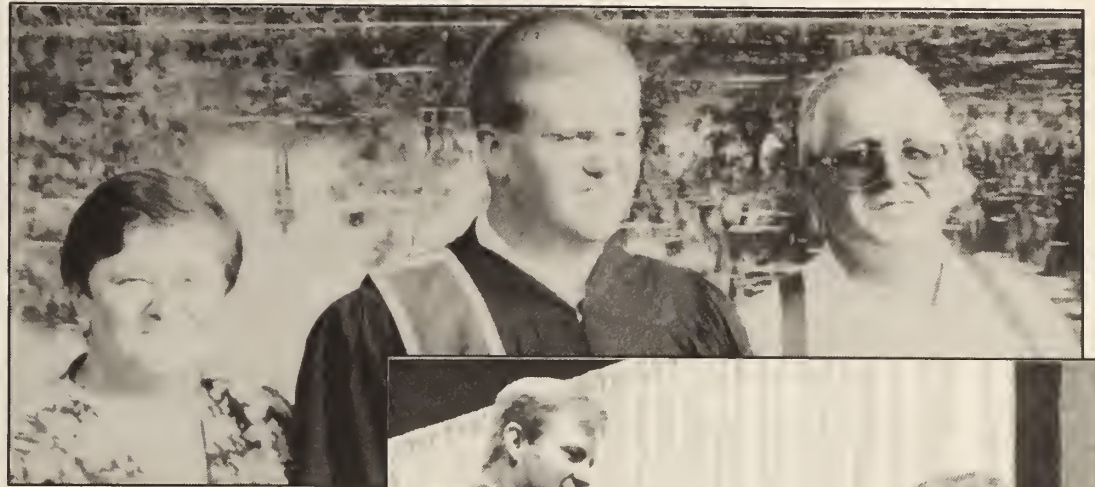
Some students, however, have not reached the end of their college education despite graduation.

Tamara Westfall, an ECE graduate, said she does not want to work in that field. "I want to go into counselling children, so I am furthering my education at Emmanuel Bible College in Kitchener."

When it comes to the natural order of graduation, Ben Noseworthy is doing it backwards. Noseworthy is graduating, quitting a job in his field of study and going back to school. "In order to pursue the career path I want, I decided to come back."

He said that he has a good job with Paragon Engineering, but it is not going to take him where he wants to go.

Noseworthy said he will be taking Conestoga's computer programmer-analyst program in the fall.



Convocation draws crowd

Ken Stiles with parents Shirley and Fred (top). Betty Martin congratulates journalism grad Omar Welke (middle). Sign asks visitors to keep off the grass outside the Kenneth E. Hunter Recreation Centre (bottom right). James W. Church, founding president of Conestoga, waits to make a speech (bottom).



Everyone's happy

Graduate, Karen Dugmore and her mother, Kay, share the happy event with niece, Chloe Ferrier. (Photo by Rob Heinbecker)



Used Textbook Sale

Tuesday, August 30 and Wednesday, August 31

Student Lounge

9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Students can drop off old textbooks to be sold to the DSA Administration Office outside the Student Lounge.

Consignment fee applicable.

TEXTBOOK DROPOFF DATES

Monday, July 11 - Friday, July 15

Monday, August 15 - Monday, August 29

*Books will not be accepted after Monday, August 29

For more information call the DSA Office at 748-5131



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Sunday - CLOSED

Conestoga personalities

Student struggles to attend U.S. skills contest

By Rob Heinbecker

Winning a tournament of any sort is supposed to make it easier for the victor to advance to the next level of competition, but for Conestoga's Paul Gyger the opposite is true.

Gyger is an electrical engineering technician student at the Detweiler centre and was the gold medal winner in the residential wiring event held at the Skills Canada competition in Hamilton last May.

Gyger is moving up to the next level of competition in the United States, but has found attaining the financing difficult, as the college is unable to help.

Gyger said the Conestoga participants were told at the beginning of the competition that the college couldn't give any money for those who advanced.

When Gyger learned of his opportunity, he had to act quickly.

"We only had a week to get the money together... so I took a loan out from my parents and I am trying to get sponsors to pay back my parents."

The U.S. competition in Kansas City will cost Gyger about \$1,500 in basic accommodations, registration fees, special clothing and travel expenses.

He has raised \$500 through contributions from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Nadalin Electric and Karmax Heavy Stamping.

Gyger said his teachers were a great help. "They wrote a letter for me and told me where to go for sponsors and phoned some places, but the college (financially) didn't help me at all. They said there was no money and that was it."

Gyger said he could not expect the college to pay for the

whole trip, but had hoped to have a small part of the expense covered.

Jeff Uniac, a teacher at Conestoga's Detweiler Centre, said the college was able to support Gyger a great deal, but through resources and time rather than dollars and cents. Uniac said that any act, such as the writing of the letter of endorsement and telephoning of organizations by teachers, is an act of support by the college.

He added that the support of Skills Canada by Conestoga and other colleges gave students like Gyger the opportunity to win medals and attention for themselves.

According to the college's liaison services department, just one student from Conestoga attended the U.S. competition last year and that individual financed on his own trip.

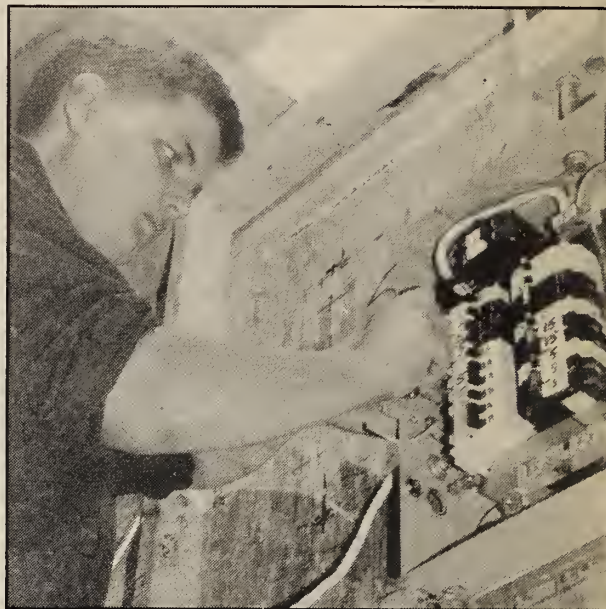
John MacKenzie, vice-president of student development and human resources, said the college has a travel budget for provincial and national competitions, but not for trips outside the country. "That is the level of support we can afford right now," said MacKenzie, adding that provincial operating grants are covering less and less of the college's costs.

But for future winners, the clouds may not appear so black. Hans Zawada, chair of the trades and apprenticeships, said he will have some form of assistance available next year.

"My intentions are to get something going at the college to provide future participants with assistance."

Zawada said he does not know how he is going to accomplish this goal, but will talk to his peers in administration and "see what we can do and how we are going to do it."

In the meantime, Gyger is still faced with the problem of getting sponsors. He said he has tried various service clubs in his home town of Milton, but has not had a response.



Paul Gyger, practising his skills for the Kansas City competition, puts a wire through an electrical box.

(Photo by Rob Heinbecker)

An option he reluctantly considers is using the \$500 in prize money he received for winning gold in the Ontario Skills competition. Gyger said he would like to have a little money left after the U.S. competition, but stressed he would use it if he has to.

Conestoga retiree prepares for life's new adventures



Jean Weller (right) cuts her retirement cake, made by co-worker Donna Douglas.

(Photo by Nicole Downie)

By Nicole Downie

The Conestoga College nursing faculty bid a fond farewell to one of its members June 16, but friends say retiree Jean Weller's life has just begun.

"The world had better look out because here comes Jean," said Marg Tupling, a co-worker and friend of Weller. "Jean is always on the go and she's got a lot of adventures ahead of her."

Weller, a 28-year veteran of teaching, said she will miss her students. "It's a scary feeling. It really hasn't hit me yet. It'll hit me in September when I don't go back to my classes."

Weller graduated from the University of Toronto in 1959 with a BA in biology. She then went to the University of London, in England, to get a masters in anatomy and physiology and graduated in 1965. Two years later she began teaching biology part time at the University of Guelph.

While teaching at the St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Guelph, she decided to expand her horizons and become a nurse.

"I felt nursing was going to give me more job opportunities," she said.

"There weren't many positions opening up in biology at the time and I wanted job security."

Weller completed the nursing program at Conestoga in 1975 and was part of the first nursing class to graduate from the college. All previous nursing students graduated from hospitals in which they interned.

She taught biology part time while she went through the program and worked as a health science supervisor for continuing education at Conestoga. In 1980, she joined the full-time college nursing staff.

"I love teaching," Weller said. "After 28 years of it, I've never tired of it."

She said her love of working with people and her love of the subject matter made teaching a wonderful career.

"I first heard about Jean from nursing students who had her as a biology teacher," said Tupling. "They all talked about how wonderful she was. Jean was always very caring and supportive of her students. She was always available to them."

The fact that Weller is retiring doesn't mean she is going to slow down, though. She is an avid skier, clothes-maker, photographer and world traveller, just to name a few of her interests.

Weller said she will use some of her extra time to master her photography skills and expand her freelance photography business, "Photo-jean-ic."

She also recently obtained a computer that hooks up to her sewing machine. She can now produce a design on the computer, transfer it to the sewing machine and have it "pop up on the fabric." Though she could make a business out of her sewing skills, Weller said, it is just a "relaxing hobby. I love to work with my hands."

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Rutherford's 21 years of service come to an end

By Sheilagh McDonald

Audrey Rutherford has two loves in her life.

One is her four-year-old adopted son James, and the other is Conestoga College. However, she has said goodbye to the latter, after 21 years of friendships, memories and faithful service, by retiring.

"James goes on the school bus in the fall and I want to be there for him," said a sentimental Rutherford, who lives on a 200-acre farm in North Easthope, near Stratford.

Dick Parker, one of two social services co-ordinators, would be surprised by this because he said Rutherford always had a story about her son each time he spoke with her.

"I will always remember Audrey for the special relationship and concern for James," said Parker. "She's always got a new story about him, what he's done in the last month, or something he's said. More so than almost anyone I've ever met, and it's nice."

Since starting at the Perth-Huron Regional School of Nursing May 21, 1973, she has worked at Stratford's Water Street campus from 1981 to 1989, at Doon's test centre until it closed down in the fall of 1993 and, most recently, at the health services office at Doon with senior nurse Marilyn Fischer.

"What can I tell you about working with Audrey?" ponders Fisher. "She was the very first clerk this office had and she was very dependable. When I was away, I felt things were being looked after."

Rutherford said working in the health services office was a learning process she enjoyed immensely. "You never knew what was going to walk in that door. It could have been a heart attack or an accident and it could have been a staff member or a student."

In her last year with the college, Rutherford worked 25 hours at the office and 10 hours in human resources weekly. She served on Conestoga's board of governors from 1987-1988, was a member of the hiring committee which selected current college president John Tibbits and ran an auction in November 1992, raising \$2,674 for the school's fundraising.

Kim Radigan, health, safety and environmental co-ordinator at human resources, said she knew Rutherford's name, but had never met her until August 1993, when Rutherford switched from the test centre to the health office.

"She was very good with the students," said Radigan, recalling an incident where a student came into the office after having a motorcycle accident in the parking lot.

"He was just about in a state of shock and

Audrey got him to roll up his pant leg so she could take care of his wounds. He was pretending it was no big deal but I could see he had this panicked look on his face," said Radigan.

"And Audrey said to me 'Oh, Kim, look at his legs. Aren't they terrific. Roll them up higher.' By the end of it he was laughing, which was exactly what he needed, and Audrey got his leg cleaned up."

Rutherford's humor, Radigan said, is another thing she will remember her for. "I could never tell if she was being serious or just joking. She told me last December she was going to quit and I said, very seriously, 'Well, Audrey, if that's what you want then I understand,' and she said 'Oh no, I was just joking.'"

Judy Hart, special needs assistant, describes Rutherford as a true country girl. "She cans, she bakes, she rug-hooks and she loves holstein cows," laughed Hart. "She can also handle the big farming tractors if she has to."

Rutherford said one of the things she will remember about Conestoga is the students. "My true strength is with the students. When I worked in Stratford I was in the counselling department, registering them and working with them. I enjoyed all aspects of it immensely."

"This was one of the toughest decisions I've ever had to make."